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Diana T Fritz 03/20/2007 04:05:26 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

October 29, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 4802 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: KPAO  
Captions: None  
Subject: A/S MAURA HARTY: TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE IN UAE  
AL-ITTIHAD NEWSPAPER  
Ref: None

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04802

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: PAO  
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM  
Laser1:  
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM:RALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN  
CLEARED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDCKER

VZCZCADI198  
RR RUEHC RUEHZM  
DE RUEHAD #4802/01 3021155  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 291155Z OCT 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2240  
INFO RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 004802

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STATE FOR NEA/PPD; NEA/ARP; ECA; IIP

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [KPAO](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: A/S MAURA HARTY: TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE IN UAE  
AL-ITTIHAD NEWSPAPER

SUMMARY: THE PAO OFFICE ARRANGED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW  
ON OCTOBER 20 FOR A/S MAURA HARTY WITH THE ABU DHABI-  
BASED SEMI-OFFICIAL ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" DURING HER  
STOP IN THE UAE. DURING THE INTERVIEW, A/S HARTY  
REITERATED U.S. OFFICIAL WELCOME OF UAE VISITORS,  
WHETHER FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL PURPOSES OR TOURISM. END  
SUMMARY

1. THE HEADLINE OF THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE ARAB AND  
INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE DAILY READS: "ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS: 'EFFECTIVE

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MEASURES ARE UNDERWAY TO SPEED UP ENTRY VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES.'"

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION OF THE ENTIRE ARTICLE:  
"AMBASSADOR MAURA HARTY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS, ASSERTED THAT THE SPECIALIZED AUTHORITIES IN HER COUNTRY HAVE UNDERTAKEN A SERIES OF MEASURES TO SPEED UP PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING ENTRY VISAS TO THE UNITED STATES. SHE SAID THAT THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT IN THE U.S. CONSULATES IN SOME ARAB AND MUSLIM COUNTRIES ARE PART OF THESE NEW MEASURES, AND ARE NOT LIMITED TO A CERTAIN NATION, OR DUE TO THE HIGH NUMBER OF VISITORS COMING FROM IT, OR THE PRESENCE OF SYMPATHIZERS WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AS MENTIONED BY SOME AMERICAN MEDIA.

12. "DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH 'AL-ITTIHAD' YESTERDAY, THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL REITERATED HER COUNTRY'S WELCOME OF ALL UAE VISITORS, WHETHER FOR EDUCATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT OR TOURISM, NOTING THAT THE NUMBER OF UAE VISITORS HAS INCREASED.

13. "ON HER CURRENT VISIT, AMBASSADOR HARTY SAID THAT IT COMES AS PART OF A REGIONAL VISIT THAT WAS STARTED IN EGYPT, WHERE SHE PARTICIPATED IN A REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR U.S. CONSULS IN THE REGION, WHOSE AIM WAS EXCHANGING VIEWS AND EXPERTISE AND REVIEWING THE NEW MEASURES REGARDING ENTRY VISAS TO THE U.S., AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO AMERICAN CHILDREN OF NON-AMERICANS. SHE PERSONALLY FOLLOWS THIS PORTFOLIO AND, AT THE SAME TIME, IT RECEIVES SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM BOTH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS. SHE ADDED THAT HER TOUR TOOK HER TO EGYPT, JORDAN, AND THE UAE AND THEN TO SAUDI ARABIA.

14. "ON THE COMPLEXITIES AND THE LONG TIME REQUIRED FOR VISA PROCESSING FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS NOTED THAT MANY THINGS

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HAVE CHANGED FOLLOWING 9/11, AND THAT WE, AS A GOVERNMENT, HAVE A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR CITIZENS AND THOSE WHO LIVE IN OUR NATION. AS A REMINDER, THOSE WHO WERE KILLED IN THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK WERE NOT ONLY AMERICANS, BUT ALSO CITIZENS BELONGING TO MORE THAN 90 COUNTRIES.

15. "SHE ADDED THAT PARENTS WHO DECIDE TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO STUDY ABROAD ARE KEEN THAT THEY LIVE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE SAME THING APPLIES TO VISITORS; THEREFORE, SECURITY IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. AS FOR THE ROLE OF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IN US CONSULATES, SHE EXPLAINED THAT THESE ARE PEOPLE WITH LONG EXPERIENCE WHO HAVE WORKED IN DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS INS, CUSTOMS OR THE COAST GUARD, AND THAT WE HAVE STARTED SENDING THEM TO OUR MISSIONS ABROAD TO USE THEIR EXPERTISE AND ENSURE THE QUICK AND EFFICIENT APPLICATION OF THE NEW MEASURES. IT IS NO SECRET TO SAY THAT THE PREVIOUS MEASURES WERE SLOW AND

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REQUIRED MODIFICATION AND WE DID OUR BEST TO MAKE THEM FASTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE.

16. "ON WHETHER THESE MEASURES ARE TARGETING ONLY ARABS AND MUSLIMS, THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL DENIED THIS NOTION, ASSERTING THAT THESE MEASURES ARE IMPOSED WORLDWIDE AND OUR MISSION (AS A GOVERNMENT) IS TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF ALL LEGAL TRAVELERS. SECRETARY THOMAS RIDGE (HOMELAND SECURITY) VISITED A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TO BRIEF THEM ON THESE MEASURES.

17. "REGARDING THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY THE PREVIOUS MEASURES ON THOSE WHO SOUGHT EDUCATION IN THE US, AMBASSADOR HARTY NOTED: 'WE'RE SORRY FOR THEIR SUFFERINGS AND ONCE AGAIN I SAY THAT THIS IS DUE TO OUR

INTEREST IN PROVIDING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS SEEKING TO MAKE USE OF OUR ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. WE WOULD ALSO BE HAPPY TO SEE THESE STUDENTS GO BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES AFTER GRADUATION AND BECOME LEADERS IN THEIR OWN NATIONS. WE RENEW OUR WELCOME OF STUDENTS AND HOPE THAT THEY SEE TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY AND SPEED IN THE NEW MEASURES. THEY WOULD ALSO FEEL A FLEXIBILITY THAT ALLOWS THEM TO APPLY WITHOUT ANY PRIOR APPOINTMENTS AS LONG AS THEIR DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETE.'

¶8. "WHAT APPLIES TO STUDENT ALSO APPLIES TO VISITORS SEEKING MEDICAL CARE, TOURISM OR EVEN IMMIGRATION. DESPITE WHAT MANY SEE AS SLOWNESS AND COMPLICATIONS OF THE SYSTEM, THE NUMBER OF VISAS HAS INCREASED TO 6.8 MILLION.

¶9. "REGARDING THE RISE IN RATE OF INCIDENTS TARGETING ARABS AND MUSLIMS IN THE US RECENTLY, DESPITE EFFORTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO HIGHLIGHT TOLERANCE AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN AMERICA, AMBASSADOR HARTY SAID, 'OF COURSE THE GENERAL MOOD OF THE SOCIETY HAS CHANGED AFTER 9/11; WE REJECT THESE ASSAULTS AND CONSIDER THEM CRIMES, FOR THEY AFFECT OUR VALUES AND OUR IMAGE AS A NATION THAT WAS BUILT BY IMMIGRANTS OF DIFFERENT CULTURES AND RACES AND RELIGIONS.'

¶10. "HARTY CONCLUDED HER STATEMENT BY REASSERTING HER NATION'S WELCOME OF ALL THOSE WHO SEEK EDUCATION, MEDICAL TREATMENT, TOURISM OR TRADE WITH THE US, WHETHER THEY ARE UAE NATIONALS OR EXPATRIATES LIVING IN THE UAE. SHE ALSO REVIEWED ALL THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THEM IN THE AREAS THEY SEEK, WHETHER THE DEVELOPED INFRASTRUCTURE, THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, THE EXCELLENT MEDICAL CARE, OR TOURISM IN AMERICA."

ALBRIGHT